

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 AID-05 /085 W
-----089759 291708Z /41

R 291600Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6550
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USNMR SHAPE BEL
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 2578

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC USCINCEUR FOR POLAD USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: CALL ON CYPRUS ACTING PRESIDENT MICHAELIDES

1. I CALLED ON ACTING PRESIDENT MICHAELIDES SEPT 29.
AS PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, HE HAD
ASSUMED THE POSITION OF ACTING PRESIDENT UPON
KYPRIANOU'S DEPARTURE FOR UNGA THE PREVIOUS DAY.

2. MICHAELIDES HAD BEEN KNOWN TO THIS EMBASSY BEFORE
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MAKARIOS' DEATH CATAPULTED HIM, AS THE OBSCURE FLOOR
LEADER OF KYPRIANOU'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP), INTO THE
HOUSE PRESIDENCY, BUT ONLY SLIGHTLY. MICHAELIDES,
THE SON A VILLAGE SHOEMAKER, HAD BEEN IN TEACHING,
HOTEL MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS BEFORE HIS FIRST ENTRY
INTO POLITICS AS A CANDIDATE ON THE KYPRIANOU TICKET
IN THE PARLIMENTARY ELECTIONS OF SEPT 1976. FORTY-

FOUR YEARS OF AGE, MICHAELIDES IS SUAVE, TALL FOR A CYPRIOT, MODERATELY GOOD-LOOKING, WITH SWARTHY COMPLEXION AND CURLY BLACK HAIR WITH A TRACE OF GRAY. HE COMES ACROSS AS DELIBERATE, POSED, SOMEWHAT SELF-IMPORTANT AND DECIDELY HUMORLESS: SEVERAL QUALITIES SHARED WITH HIS PARTY LEADER, KYPRIANOU. IN THREE AND A HALF YEARS AT GEORGIA TECH, MICHAELIDES GOT A MASTER'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND TAUGHT. HIS ELDEST CHILD, A BOY, WAS BORN IN THE U.S. MICHAELIDES SEEMS VERY PROUD OF HIS AMERICAN EXPERIENCE AND CONNECTIONS. HE IS CLOSE TO BILINGUAL IN ENGLISH.

3. I CONGRATUALTED MICHAELIDES ON HIS ELECTION TO THE HOUSE PRESIDENCY AND PROMISED EMBASSY'S COOPERATION. OUR SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION CENTERED ON TWO SUBJECTS: CYPRUS NEGOTIATING PROSPECTS AND THE GREEK CYPRIOT INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE.

4. ON THE FIRST SUBJECT, I NOTED THAT RECENT VISIT TO THE AREA BY COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND LEDSKY HAD BEEN DESIGNED IN PART TO ASSESS TURKISH WILLINGNESS AND CAPABILITY TO ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM IN ANTICIPATION OF SERIOUS MEETINGS BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE, MR. CLIFFORD AND FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL. IN THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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RESPECT, THE NIMETZ/LEDSKY VISIT HAD LEFT US MILDLY ENCOURAGED. CURRENT NEW YORK DISCUSSIONS WOULD CONTINUE THIS PROCESS. I WONDERED WHETHER, IF SOMETHING SERIOUS WERE TO RESULT, THE GOC WOULD BE IN A POSITION BEFORE FEBRUARY TO NEGOTIATE PURPOSEFULLY. I WAS SURE THE SAME QUESTION WOULD BE PUT TO KYPRIANOU BY US OFFICIALS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NICOSIA 2578

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC USCINCEUR FOR POLAD USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

5. MICHAELIDES REPLIED EMPHATICALLY YES. KYPRIANOU AND HE WERE INTERESTED PRIMARILY IN THE WELL-BEING OF CYPRUS AND THAT MEANT PROGRESS TOWARD A SOLUTION. THEY WOULD COOPERATE IN SEEKING SUCH PROGRESS EVEN TO THE DETRIMENT OF THEIR POSITION WITH THE ELECTORATE IF THEY FELT THIS WERE IN THE COUNTRY'S INTEREST. MICHAELIDES CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, AGAINST RAISING GREEK HOPES ABOUT NEGOTIATING PROSPECTS UNLESS USG OBTAINED ASSURANCE OF IMPORTANT MOVEMENT FROM ITS BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE TURKS. MICHAELIDES CITED THE GREAT EXPECTATIONS GREEK CYPRIOTS HAD HAD AT THE TIME
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OF CLIFFORD'S FIRST VISIT AND THE SENSE OF LETDOWN WHEN THEY COOPERATED IN VIENNA BY PRODUCING A MAP, WHICH ONLY MAKARIOS COULD HAVE DONE, AND THE TURKS DID NOT RECIPROCATATE WITH EITHER CHANGED CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSAL OR MEANINGFUL SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE ON TERRITORY. HAVING VISITED THE US LAST SPRING AND HAVING HELD CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON, HE FELT USG TENDED TO TAKE AN APPROACH WITH WHICH HE DID NOT AGREE, I.E. PLACING TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON GETTING DISCUSSIONS STARTED, WITHOUT A CLEAR VIEW OF THE DESIRED RESULT, RATHER THAN ADVISING THE PARTIES OF WHAT IT CONSIDERED TO BE A FAIR OUTCOME AND HELPING THEM REACH THAT THROUGH NEGOTIATION.

6. ANTICIPATING MY SECOND CONCERN, MICHAELIDES DISCUSSED THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN GREEK CYPRUS. HE SEEMED VERY CONCERNED TO ALLAY FEARS THAT KYPRIANOU AND THE DP ARE DEPENDENT ON AKEL AND EDEK VOTES AND THERE WILL BE VULNERABLE TO COMMUNIST INSTRUCTION. HE DEPICTED AKEL AS THE WEST EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY MOST UNIMAGINATIVELY SUBSERVIENT TO MOSCOW'S ORDERS. HIS CENTRAL ASSERTION WAS THAT KYPRIANOU AND HE ARE USING AKEL RATHER THAN THE ORTHER WAY AROUND. THE DP FEELS NO COMPUNCTION ABOUT ACCEPTING LEFTIST VOTES, SINCE IT WILL REJECT ANY EFFORTS AT CONTROL, BUT IT WILL SEEK TO BUILD A CONSTITUENCY OF ITS OWN, HOPEFULLY OF AROUND THIRTY PERCENT AMONG VOTERS OF THE CENTER AND MODERATE RIGHT.

7. MICHAELIDES MAINTAINED THAT KYPRIANOU IS SUPPORTED BY A STRONG MAJORITY OF GREEK CYPRIOTS WHO REGARD HIM AS THE LEGALLY DESIGNATED SUCCESSOR TO MAKARIOS, AS SOMEONE WHO WILL CARRY ON THE

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ARCHBISHOP'S POLICIES, SEEKING NATIONAL UNITY THROUGH A MODEST APPROACH. HE SAID THIS CONTRASTS WITH THE ATTITUDE VOTERS WOULD TAKE TOWARD SOMEONE WHO SOUGHT TO CHALLENGE KYPRIANOU. A CHALLENGER WOULD BE VIEWED BY THE COMMON MAN AS A THREAT TO UNITY AND CONTINUITY. IN AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE ANTI-KYPRIANOU VIEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF SENIOR MINISTERS, MICHAELIDES CAUTIONED AGAINST HEEDING THE CONTRADICTORY CONVERSATIONS IN "NICOSIA SALONS."

8. AT THE END OF OUR MEETING, MICHAELIDES SAID HE WAS INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING REGULAR CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY, AND I REPLIED THAT WE WOULD WELCOME THIS.

CRAWFORD

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Subject: CALL ON CYPRUS ACTING PRESIDENT MICHAELIDES
TAGS: PGOV, PDIP, CY, US
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